

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

SENIOR AND DISABILITIES SERVICES

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Program Memo

Temporary Moratorium on Application and Enrollment in Home and Community-Based Medicaid Waivers and Personal Care Assistance Services

July 1, 2009

The state Division of Senior and Disabilities Services is working in coordination with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to improve compliance with federal standards in the areas of Home and Community Based Waivers and Personal Care Services. The CMS preliminary report has cited several areas in need of improvement to assure that the state's oversight of the Waivers and Personal Care Services is consistent with federal and state regulations.

At the direction of CMS, effective immediately, SDS will suspend application and enrollment for Personal Care Assistance (PCA) services, Children with Complex Medical Conditions (CCMC) Home and Community Based Medicaid (HCBM) Waiver services, Mental Retardation/Developmental Disabilities HCBM Waiver services, Older Alaskan HCBM Waiver services, and Adults with Physical Disabilities HCBM Waiver services.

- The following will no longer be accepted or processed until further notice:
 - New/initial applications for HCBM Waivers or Personal Care Assistance,
 - CCMC Screenings and initial assessments,
 - Developmental Disabilities Registry selections,
 - Initial Inventory for Client and Agency Planning (ICAP) requests for assessment,
 - Requests for transitions from institutional care to Waiver or PCA services, or
 - Requests to transfer from one Waiver to another.
- No initial assessments will be conducted on or after July 2, 2009.
- Incomplete application packets will be returned to the applicant.
- Processing of initial completed assessments and PCA service plans will cease effective close of business July 1, 2009.
- All initial levels of care determined, and all initial plans of care received on or after June 27, 2009, will be set aside pending clarification from CMS.

This suspension of new applications **does not** apply to the following:

- Renewal/reauthorization, amendment of services,
- Transfers from one service provider to another within a program,
- TEFRA Medicaid,
- Nursing Home admissions,
- Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded admissions,
- Requests for determination of developmental disability,
- Request for placement or update on the Developmental Disability Registry,
- Grant services, or
- General Relief program.

All affected applicants will be notified in writing. SDS plans to schedule teleconferences in the coming weeks to address questions, and additional information will be distributed as soon as it becomes available. Your questions may be directed to Angela Salerno at 465-4874 or angela.salerno@alaska.gov


Rebecca Hilgendorf, Director